



Attorney's Docket No. 1232-4640

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hirofumi TAKEI
Serial No. : 09/645,753 Group Art Unit : 2622
Filed : August 24, 2000 Examiner : TBA
For : AUTOFOCUS STROBE CONTROL IN IMAGE SENSING APPARATUS

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4-27-04

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MAR 25 2004
Technology Center 2600

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed, are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. ☒ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, an English language translation of that item or a portion thereof or a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is enclosed:
JPA 11-069224
2. ☐ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application.
3. ☐ Any copy of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in application Serial No. _____, filed _____.

4. ☒ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a CPA; or
 - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or
 - ☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits; or
 - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4) before the mailing date of a first office action after the filing of an RCE under §1.114.
5. ☐ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.
6. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance (where there has been no prior final action):
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee.
 - ☐ Charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. _____. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
7. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance, whichever comes first, but before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
- a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and
 - b. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.

8. ☐ This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in compliance with:
- a. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3) or §1.313(c)(1), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue and fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h);
 - b. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(c)(2) or §1.313(c)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) or a Continuation application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue and fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h).
 - c. ☐ The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
9. ☐ I hereby certify that items listed on the Form PTO-1449 were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ I hereby certify that no item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
10. ☐ This document is accompanied by ☐ a Search Report ☐ Communication which was cited in a corresponding ☐ PCT or ☐ Foreign counterpart application.
11. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed in payment of the fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p).
12. ☐ Charge the fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. _____. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.

☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4640.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: 3/23/2004

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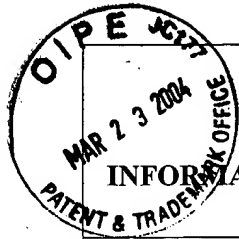
U.S. Serial No. 09/645,753
Filed on August 24, 2000
Applicant: Hirofumi TAKEI

**A CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE OF
JAPANESE APPLICATION NO. JPA11-069224**

U.S. Serial No. 09/645,753, hereafter “the present application,” as disclosed in claim 1 is aimed at effectively using a light upon forming a signal for focus control, and emission operation of the light is changed in correspondence with an image sensing period of an image sensing device. Claims 25 and 27 are method and medium claims of claim 29, respectively, and thus have the same feature as claim 29.

The invention of the present application disclosed in claim 13 is also aimed at effectively using a fill-in light upon forming a signal for focus control, and the fill-in light is turned on at a period of image sensing operation of an image sensing device. Claims 26 and 29 are method and medium claims of claim 41, respectively, and thus have the same feature as claim 41.

In contrast, Japanese Application Laid-Open No. 11-69224 does not disclose any of the above features.



FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Attorney Docket:
1232-4640Serial No.:
09/645,753Applicant:
Hirofumi TAKEIExaminer:
to be assignedFiling Date:
August 24, 2000Group Art Unit:
2622

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial | | Patent Number | Issue Date | Name | Class | Sub-Class | Filing Date |
|------------------|----|---------------|------------|------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| | AA | | | | | | |
| | AB | | | | | | |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial | | Document Number | Publication Date | Country | Class | Sub-Class | Translation |
|------------------|----|-----------------|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|---|
| | AH | JPA11-069224 | 3/9/1999 | JAPAN | | | English Abstract & A Concise Explanation of the Relevance |
| | AI | | | | | | |
| | AJ | | | | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, etc.)

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| | AK | |
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Examiner

Date Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.